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INFORMATION REPORT

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

COUNTRY

USSR

SUBJECT

Disease Prevalence and Control/Medical Services
Medical Care for Merchant Marine Crews

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT # 50X1-HUM

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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1. In 1946 the total population of the village of Vesilevska was about 1,000 persons. 50X1-HUM
2. [redacted] there was a famine in Vesilevska in 1933 and [redacted] quite a few people died during this famine. 50X1-HUM
3. The situation (with regard to the effects of the famine) was good in 1935-1938 inclusive and bad in the years 1939-1940 although not quite as bad as during the years 1932-1933. [redacted] it was fairly good between 1935 and 1938, and [redacted] the situation was [redacted] in 1939-1940. 50X1-HUM
4. [redacted]
5. The nearest feldsherskiy punkt was about one km west [redacted] and the nearest medical center was located at the extreme end of the village, also west of the center of the village. There was no street name. The nearest Rayon hospital was 30 kms away.
6. The village hospital had about 20 beds, the Rayon hospital about 200 beds, but there may have been more than one hospital in the Rayon.
7. If a villager became sick and was unable to go for medical assistance, either relatives or neighbors would call a doctor from the nearest medical center. He may have had to wait two or sometimes three hours before help actually arrived. If it was considered necessary to transfer a patient to a hospital, a horse and wagon was borrowed from the kolkhoz manager and the patient taken to the hospital in it.
8. In a case involving a serious illness, the kolkhoz always provided some sort of transportation. [redacted]
9. The village hospital had three doctors. The Rayon hospital about 20. 50X1-HUM
10. [redacted] There were "sanitarnyy druzhiny" of the Red Cross in schools but nowhere else. A school-child would be charged with the task of checking on the clean appearance of [redacted]

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other schoolchildren in his class. Sometimes he would do so, most of the time he would not.

11. The GSO badge was worn by teenagers, 15-16 years old, before and during World War II to show that they were trained in making bandages and handling injuries. These badges were looked upon by the village people as more or less of a joke. After World War II nobody ever wore such a badge again.

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12. Kolkhoz girls were happy to accept work as volunteer nurses at the village medical center because they considered the work there much more pleasant than on the fields.

13. [redacted] there were no infectious human diseases in the villages nor [redacted] infectious animal diseases among kolkhoz animals although [redacted] some [redacted] died from lack of food.

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14. There was one veterinary specialist in the village. The service was fair.

15. [redacted]

16. From 1946 to 1953, people (Russians, Ukrainians, etc) emigrated to Feodosiya and other towns and villages in the oblast from other oblasts all the time. They came from Ivanovskaya, Gor'kovskaya, Voronezhskaya, Kharkov, that is, the entire European part of the USSR. The percentage of the total amount of newcomers in Feodosiya may be 80% to 90% of the Feodosiya population.

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17. [redacted]

18. There were 40 or 42 men in the crew of the SS "Ararat" and 49 in that of the "Tuapse". The SS "Ararat" had a woman doctor, two beds in the sick bay but no nurses. The "Tuapse" had a male doctor, no nurses and a couple of beds. The sick bay on the "Tuapse" was an ordinary cabin, with a closet containing medicines. There was an infirmary.

19. If a crew member broke a leg or arm or became sick and stayed in his quarters, the doctor would come within a few minutes and assist no matter if it was day or night. In case of serious illness requiring an operation, the doctor would perform it if he could; if he could not a patrol boat from the nearest port would pick up the patient and transfer him to a hospital for treatment.

20. Merchant marine recruits are subjected to a thorough physical examination. The following are checked: Eyes, ears, nose, throat, chest (X-ray is made), urinalysis, and feces are examined. The examination also covers sexual organs, anus, etc. Members of the crew are given a physical examination once a year.

21. There is little or no venereal disease among the crew but excessive drinking is widespread.

22. To prevent VD, crew members are forbidden to remain ashore overnight and when overseas, contact with women is strictly forbidden and very strict control to prevent such contact is always enforced. Members of the crew returning to their ship intoxicated are deprived of further shore leave and reprimanded by Captain, Pompolit, First Mate, Chief Engineer and Boatswain, either singly or all of them separately.

23. Bad food conditions in the USSR have an effect on the health of the population. They have led to stomach ulcers and cancer, appendicitis, frequent colds due to lack of fats and lack of proper clothing and general weakness caused by lack of sugar and fats.

24. Shipboard personnel on tankers were inoculated twice a year against malaria, diphtheria, dysentery and typhus and were also vaccinated against smallpox.

25. [redacted]

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26. Out-patient clinics have separate offices for each medical specialty. In addition, most of them have a fairly large waiting room which is kept in clean sanitary condition. The different specialties are: eye, ear-nose-throat, neurology, teeth, X-ray, surgery and venereal disease. As a rule, the service is good.

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